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HOLIER THAN THOU

WHAT MILLIONS DIED — THAT CAESAR MIGHT BE GREAT! — THOMAS CAMPBELL

MORTAL SINS

THERE ARE MANY ACTORS IN THIS GRAND DRAMA, AND I, THANOS, APPEAR TO BE THE ONLY PARTICIPANT WITH A FULL GRASP ON THE SITUATION.
INTERESTING.
ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUMENTATION, EARTH'S GATHERED CHAMPIONS ARE CURRENTLY ROCKETING TOWARD PARADISE OMEGA, HOME OF ADAM WARLOCK'S VIRTUOUS FEMALE DOPPELGANGER, THE GODDESS...
...A MENACE TO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WHOSE THREAT HAS UNEXPECTEDLY ENDED.
SOME UNKNOWN AGENT HAS APPARENTLY SLAIN HER.

JIM STARLIN STORY | RON LIM PENCILS | AL MILGROM INKS

JACK MORELLI LETTERS | IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS

LYNAIRE BRUST ASSISTANT · CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR · TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

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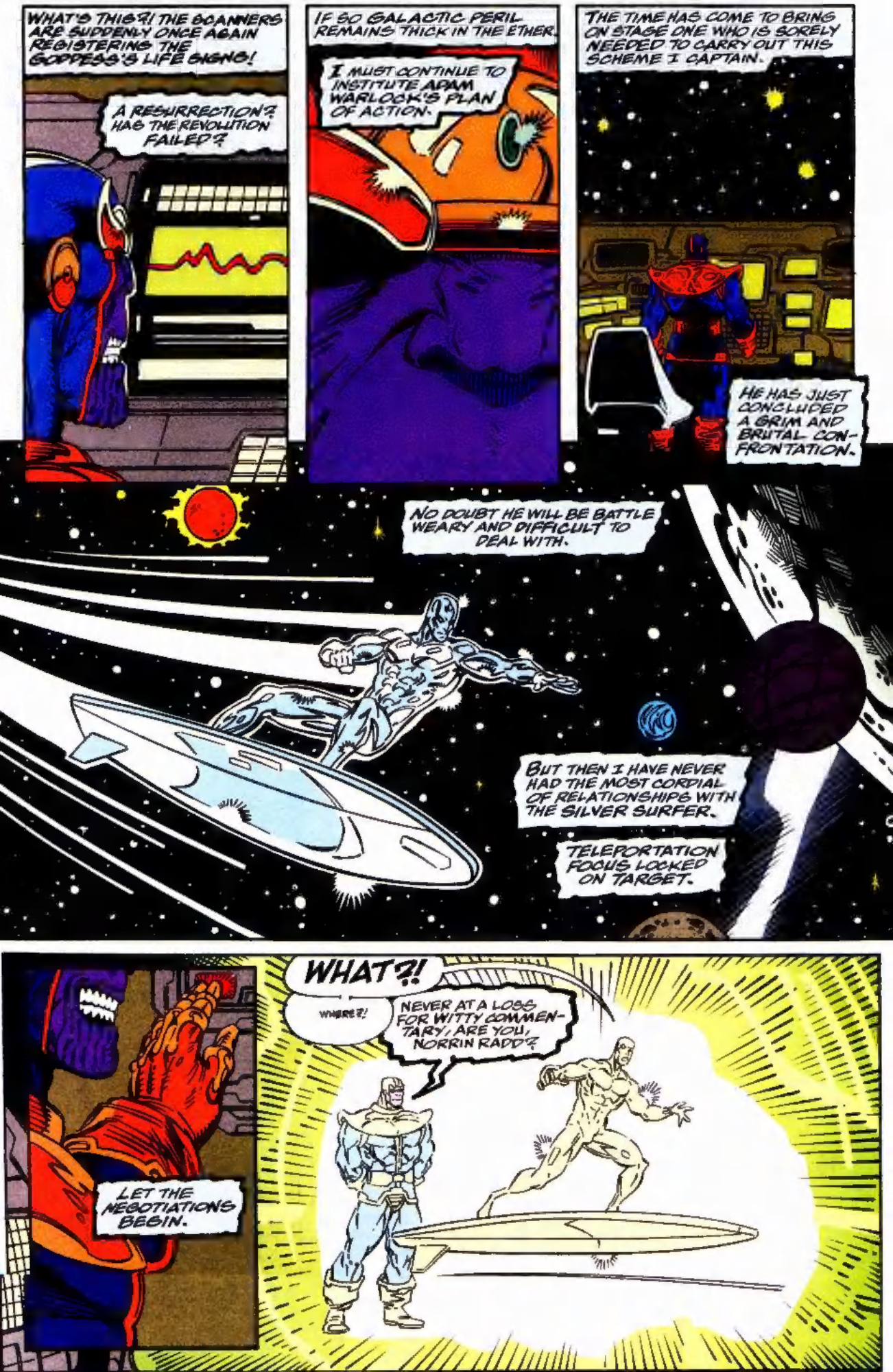
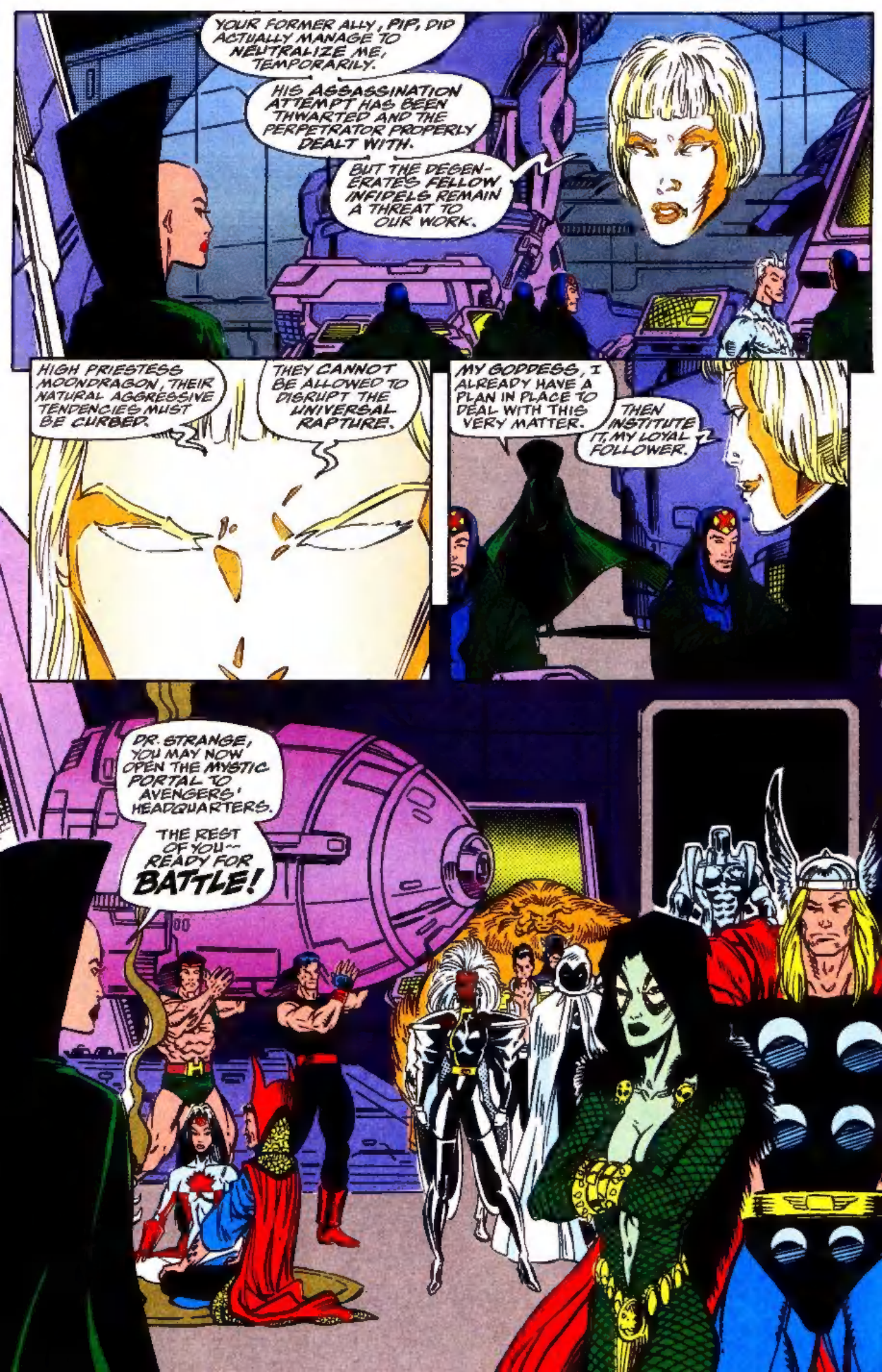
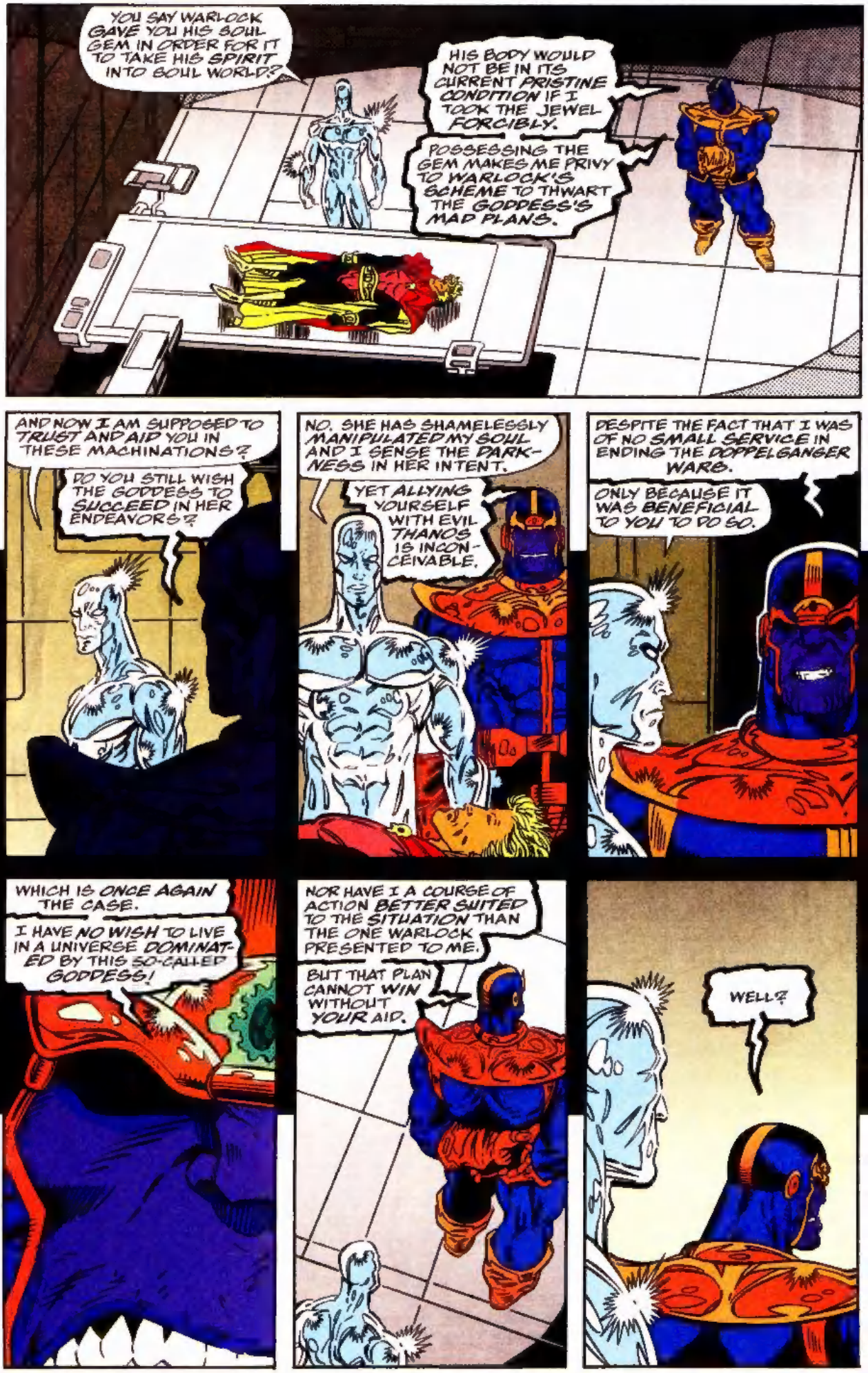
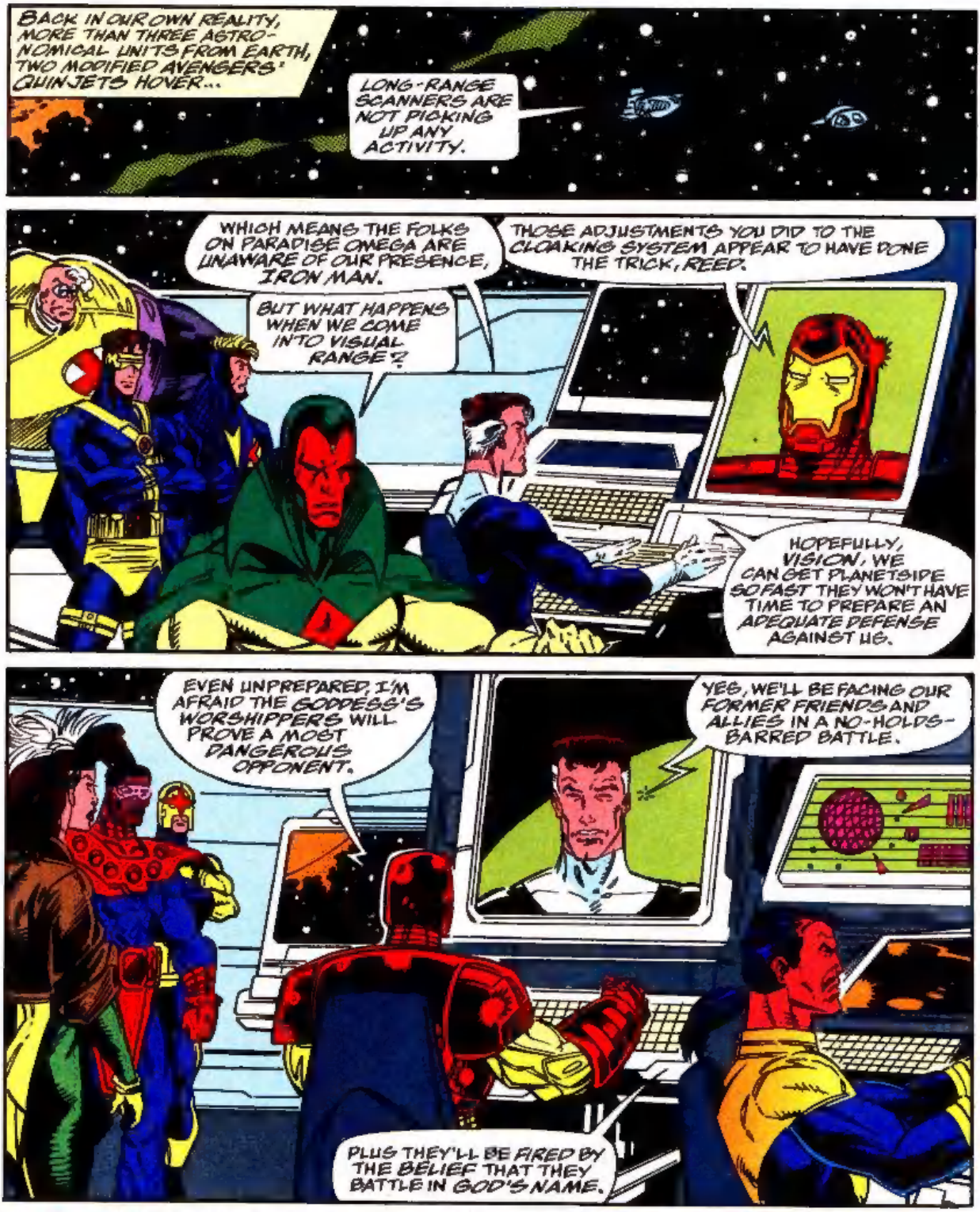

WHAT'S THIS?! THE SCANNERS ARE SUDDENLY ONCE AGAIN REGISTERING THE GODDESS'S LIFE SIGNS!
A RESURRECTION? HAS THE REVOLUTION FAILED?
IF SO GALACTIC PERIL REMAINS THICK IN THE ETHER.
I MUST CONTINUE TO INSTITUTE ADAM WARLOCK'S PLAN OF ACTION.
THE TIME HAS COME TO BRING ON STAGE ONE WHO IS SORELY NEEDED TO CARRY OUT THIS SCHEME I CAPTAIN.
HE HAS JUST CONCLUDED A GRIM AND BRUTAL CONFRONTATION.
NO DOUBT HE WILL BE BATTLE WEARY AND DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH.
BUT THEN I HAVE NEVER HAD THE MOST CORDIAL OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SILVER SURFER.
TELEPORTATION FOCUS LOCKED ON TARGET.
LET THE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN.
WHAT?!
WHERE?!
NEVER AT A LOSS FOR WITTY COMMENTARY, ARE YOU, NORRIN RADD?

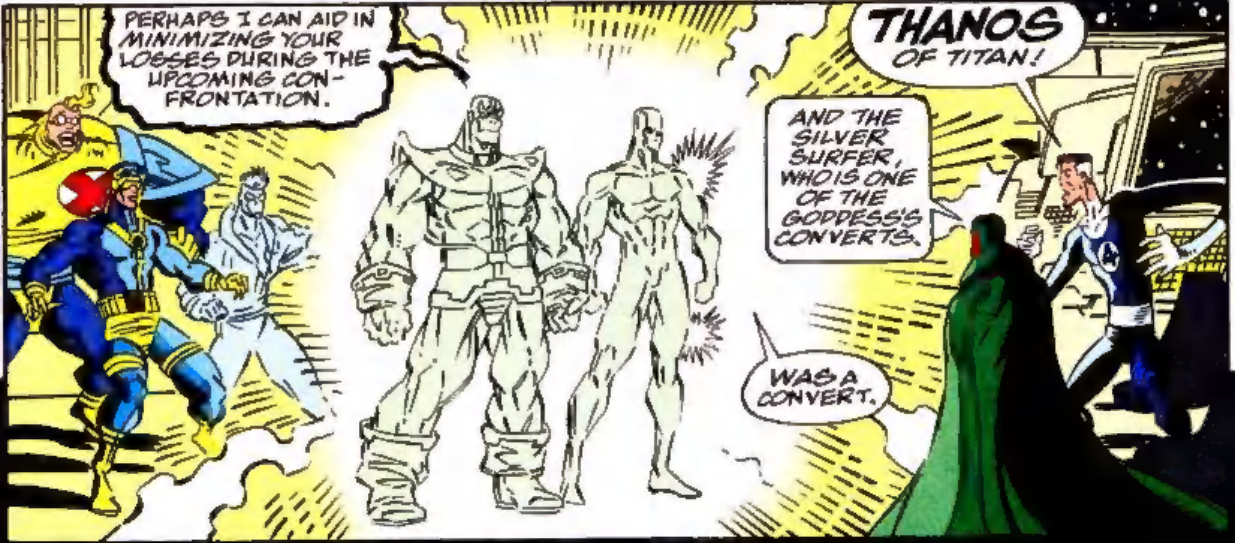
THANOS!
BEWARE, VILLAIN! I AM ABOUT BUSINESS MOST URGENT!
ANYONE SEEKING TO EVEN DELAY ME WILL SUFFER MY FULL WRATH, BACKED BY THE POWER COSMIC!
WELL, WE WOULD NOT WANT THAT TO HAPPEN NOW, WOULD WE?
SO I WILL SIMPLIFY MATTERS GREATLY BY ACQUIESCING TO YOUR WILL.
WHAT?!?
I CAPITULATE!
YOU WEAR ADAM WARLOCK'S SOUL GEM UPON YOUR FOREHEAD!
HOW?
THAT IS A QUESTION I WILL GLADLY ANSWER IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO ACCEPT MY SURRENDER.
WHAT KIND OF TRICK IS THIS?


YOUR FORMER ALLY, PIP, DID ACTUALLY MANAGE TO NEUTRALIZE ME, TEMPORARILY.
HIS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT HAS BEEN THWARTED AND THE PERPETRATOR PROPERLY DEALT WITH.
BUT THE DEGENERATES FELLOW INFIDELS REMAIN A THREAT TO OUR WORK.
HIGH PRIESTESS MOONDRAGON, THEIR NATURAL AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES MUST BE CURBED.
THEY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO DISRUPT THE UNIVERSAL RAPTURE.
MY GODDESS, I ALREADY HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE TO DEAL WITH THIS VERY MATTER.
THEN INSTITUTE IT, MY LOYAL FOLLOWER.
DR. STRANGE, YOU MAY NOW OPEN THE MYSTIC PORTAL TO AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS.
THE REST OF YOU-- READY FOR BATTLE!

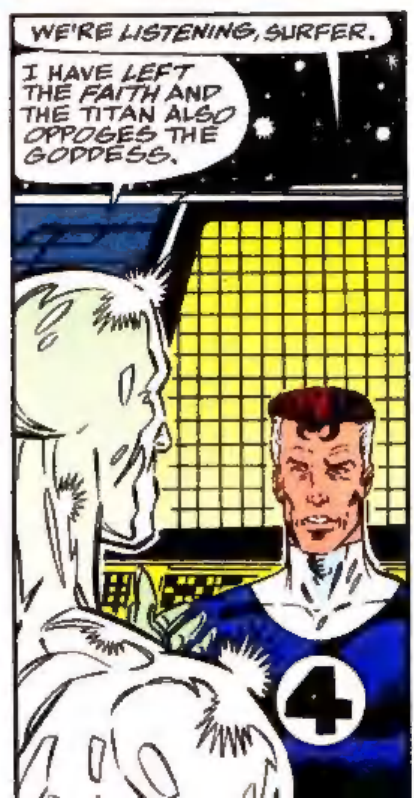

YOU SAY WARLOCK GAVE YOU HIS SOUL GEM IN ORDER FOR IT TO TAKE HIS SPIRIT INTO SOUL WORLD?
HIS BODY WOULD NOT BE IN ITS CURRENT PRISTINE CONDITION IF I TOOK THE JEWEL FORCIBLY.
POSSESSING THE GEM MAKES ME PRIVY TO WARLOCK'S SCHEME TO THWART THE GODDESS'S MAD PLANS.
AND NOW I AM SUPPOSED TO TRUST AND AID YOU IN THESE MACHINATIONS?
DO YOU STILL WISH THE GODDESS TO SUCCEED IN HER ENDEAVORS?
NO. SHE HAS SHAMELESSLY MANIPULATED MY SOUL AND I SENSE THE DARKNESS IN HER INTENT.
YET ALLYING YOURSELF WITH EVIL THANOS IS INCONCEIVABLE.
DESPITE THE FACT THAT I WAS OF NO SMALL SERVICE IN ENDING THE DOPPELGANGER WARS.
ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS BENEFICIAL TO YOU TO DO SO.
WHICH IS ONCE AGAIN THE CASE.
I HAVE NO WISH TO LIVE IN A UNIVERSE DOMINATED BY THIS SO-CALLED GODDESS!
NOR HAVE I A COURSE OF ACTION BETTER SUITED TO THE SITUATION THAN THE ONE WARLOCK PRESENTED TO ME.
BUT THAT PLAN CANNOT WIN WITHOUT YOUR AID.
WELL?

WITHIN SOUL WORLD.
ONCE HOME TO ADAM WARLOCK.
BELOW ME! I CANNOT BELIEVE IT!
GREETINGS, FRIENDS AUTOLYCUS AND JUDGE KRAY-TOR!
ADAM, YOU'VE RETURNED TO US!
ONLY FOR A SHORT WHILE, UNFORTUNATELY.
WHAT MEAN YOU?
DIRE PERIL THREATENS THE REALITY OUTSIDE THIS EMERALD HEAVEN.
TO PROTECT IT, I HAVE RETURNED HOME TO ENLIST THE AID OF ONE WHO LIVES IN THIS REALM.
WHO BE THAT? JUDGE KRAY-TOR?
MYSELF?
NO ONE YOU HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF.
BUT I KNOW EVERY SPIRIT WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF SOUL WORLD.
TRUE.
YET YOU STILL, THANKFULLY, KNOW NOT THIS INDIVIDUAL.


BACK IN OUR OWN REALITY, MORE THAN THREE ASTRONOMICAL UNITS FROM EARTH, TWO MODIFIED AVENGERS' QUINJETS HOVER...
LONG-RANGE SCANNERS ARE NOT PICKING UP ANY ACTIVITY.
WHICH MEANS THE FOLKS ON PARADISE OMEGA ARE UNAWARE OF OUR PRESENCE, IRON MAN.
BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE COME INTO VISUAL RANGE?
THOSE ADJUSTMENTS YOU DID TO THE CLOAKING SYSTEM APPEAR TO HAVE DONE THE TRICK, REED.
HOPEFULLY, VISION, WE CAN GET PLANETSIDE SO FAST THEY WON'T HAVE TIME TO PREPARE AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE AGAINST US.
EVEN UNPREPARED, I'M AFRAID THE GODDESS'S WORSHIPPERS WILL PROVE A MOST DANGEROUS OPPONENT.
YES, WE'LL BE FACING OUR FORMER FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN A NO-HOLDS-BARRED BATTLE.
PLUS THEY'LL BE FIRED BY THE BELIEF THAT THEY BATTLE IN GOD'S NAME.
FATALITIES ON BOTH SIDES WILL BE HARD TO AVOID.
I KNOW.


PERHAPS I CAN AID IN MINIMIZING YOUR LOSSES DURING THE UPCOMING CONFRONTATION.
THANOS OF TITAN!
AND THE SILVER SURFER, WHO IS ONE OF THE GODDESS'S CONVERTS.
WAS A CONVERT.

I'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF THIS WOULD BE DEMI-GOD!
SWINGING INEFFECTIVELY THROUGH A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE WILL DO YOU LITTLE GOOD, BRUTE!
BUT LISTENING TO US MIGHT.


WE'RE LISTENING, SURFER.
I HAVE LEFT THE FAITH AND THE TITAN ALSO OPPOSES THE GODDESS.

WE KNOW YOU PLAN AN ASSAULT ON PARADISE OMEGA, AND BACK YOU IN THIS EFFORT.
IN FACT, WE HAVE A LITTLE DIVERSION PLANNED TO ASSIST YOU IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

WHY?
BECAUSE YOUR ATTACK WILL ALLOW ME TO SURREPTITIOUSLY INSTITUTE CERTAIN COVERT ACTIONS OF MY OWN.
AGAINST THE GODDESS?

OF COURSE.
JUST EXACTLY WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING, THANOS?
NOTHING THAT I CAN SHARE WITH YOU.

WHY IS IT EVERY TIME I DEAL WITH THIS GUY I FEEL LIKE CANNON FODDER?
BECAUSE THAT'S OBVIOUSLY THE WAY HE SEES US.

THE TRUTH IS THAT MOON-DRAGON IS A TELEPATH AND IF YOU GET WITHIN HER SCANNING RANGE, ALL IS LOST!
HER MISTRESS, THE GODDESS, POSSESSES A COLLECTION OF COSMIC CUBES AN AWESOME ARMAMENT IN ANYONE'S GRASP.

FORTUNATELY FOR US SHE, IN HER ARROGANCE, HAS BEEN CONTENT TO USE THEM IN A MOST RITUALIZED MANNER TO REACH HER END GOAL.
WHICH IS?
A PRIZE I DARE NOT VOICE.

BUT IF THE GODDESS BECOMES AWARE OF MY INVOLVEMENT AND FEELS THREATENED, THERE IS NO TELLING WHAT HAVOC SHE COULD WREAK USING THE COLLECTED CUBES IN A MORE DIRECT FASHION.

ONE LAST DETAIL: IN ORDER FOR HER TO BE DEFEATED I WILL REQUIRE THE ASSISTANCE OF ONE OF YOUR NUMBER.
ANYONE IN PARTICULAR, OR WILL ANY WARM BODY DO?

I AM IN NEED OF THE SERVICES OF THE TELEPATH, PROF. X.

IN THAT REGARD WE CAN'T HELP YOU, TITAN.
PROF. X WAS MIND BLASTED INTO A COMA BY MOONDRAGON AT AVENGERS HEAD-QUARTERS.

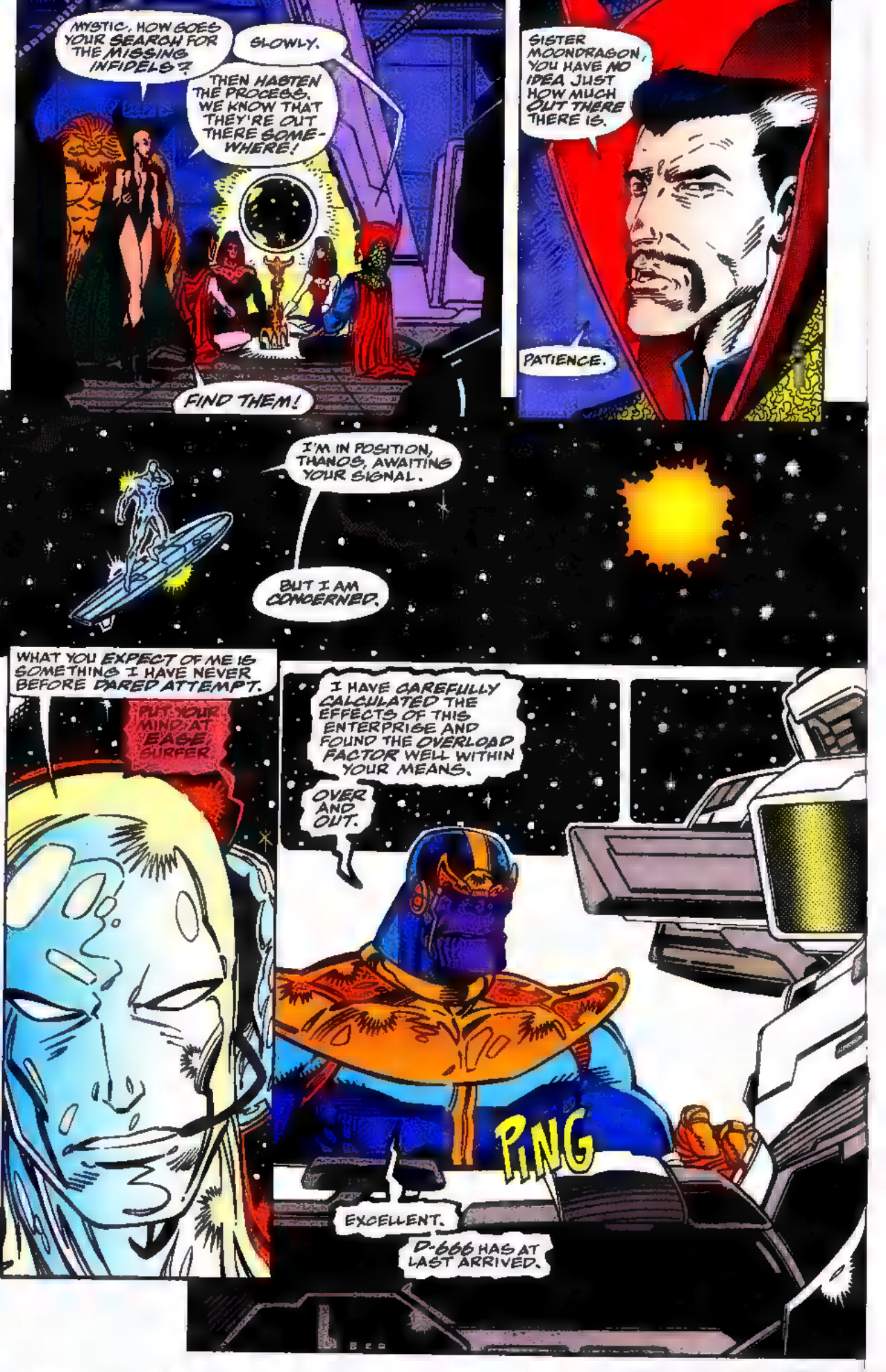
A PITY, BUT IT CHANGES NOTHING.
THE DIVERSION YOU SPOKE OF?
YOU WILL FIND I HAVE TRANSFERRED DETAILS ON HOW TO PROPERLY EXPLOIT IT WITHIN YOUR COMPUTER.

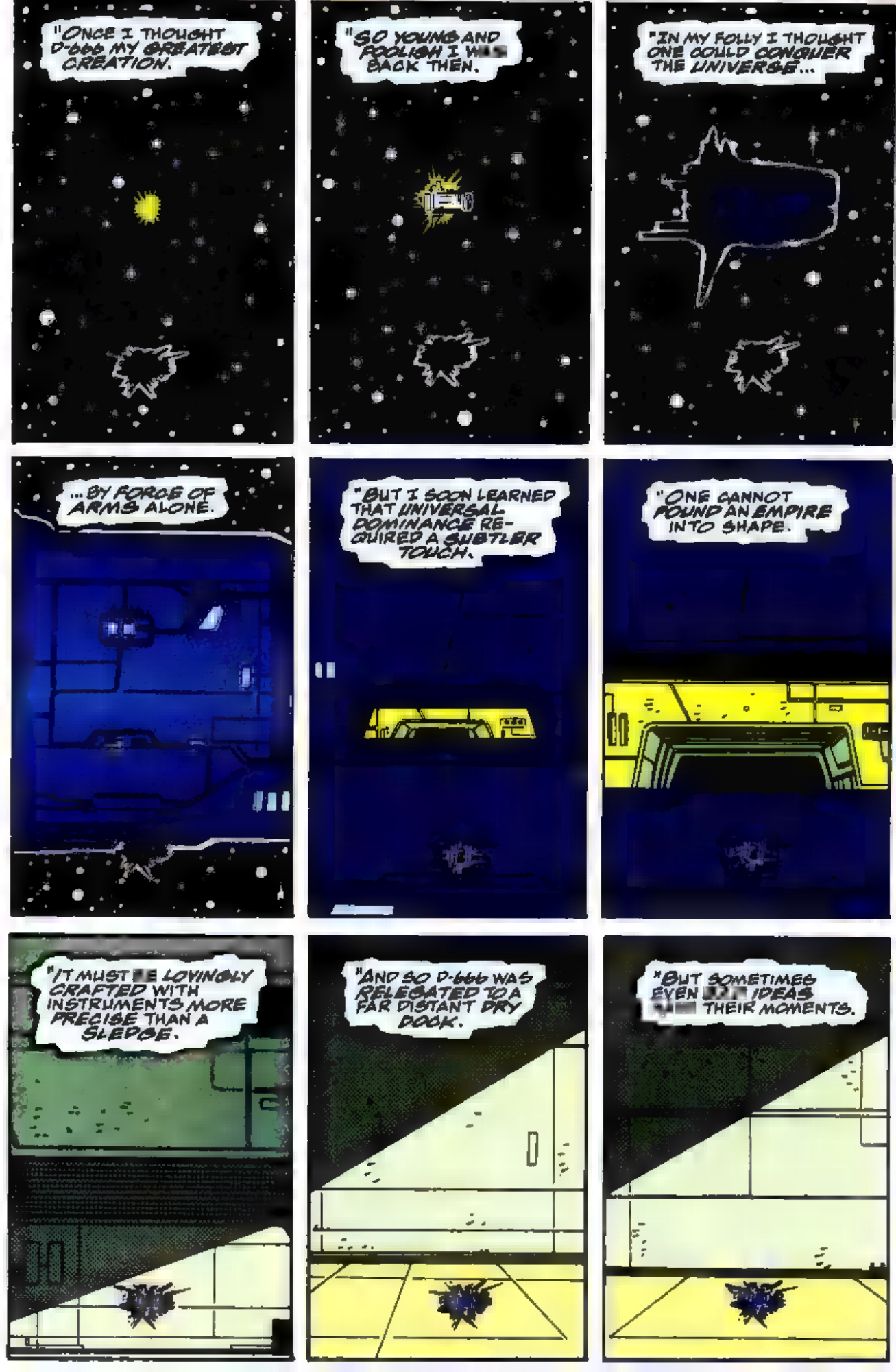
BUT WHEN CAN WE EXPECT--
SOON.
WAIT!
I HATE DEALING WITH THAT CREATURE.
BUT HE SAID THE PROFESSOR BEING CATATONIC DIDN'T MATTER TO HIM!
GOOD LORD.
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR THE PROFESSOR NOW, CYCLOPS.
WE DARE NOT BREAK LONG-RANGE RADIO SILENCE TO WARN THEM BACK AT...
AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS..
HOW'S THE GUARD DUTY GOIN', PAL?
WHAT YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?
I DID NOT SAY.
BUT YOU MAY CALL ME BISHOP.
YOU MUST BE NEW WITH THE X-MEN. I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING YOU--
HOLY COW!
PROF. X-!
WHERE??

AN IMPRESSIVE LONG-RANGED TELE-PORTATION SYSTEM YOU HAVE THERE, TITAN.
IT IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE JOB AT HAND.
THAT HEADSET YOU PLACE ON THE PROFESSOR?
WILL ALLOW ME TO PERSONALLY EXPLOIT HIS TELEPATHIC POWERS.
WITHOUT CAUSING HIM INJURY?
THANOS OF
YOU DON'T FIND PLAYING THE HERO ALL THAT COMFORT-ABLE, DO YOU?
NOW WEAR WARLOCK'S SOUL GEM.
I COULD ARRANGE NOW FOR YOU AND I TO SHARE THAT SAME EXPERIENCE
I HAVE TO PEER INTO MY SOUL?

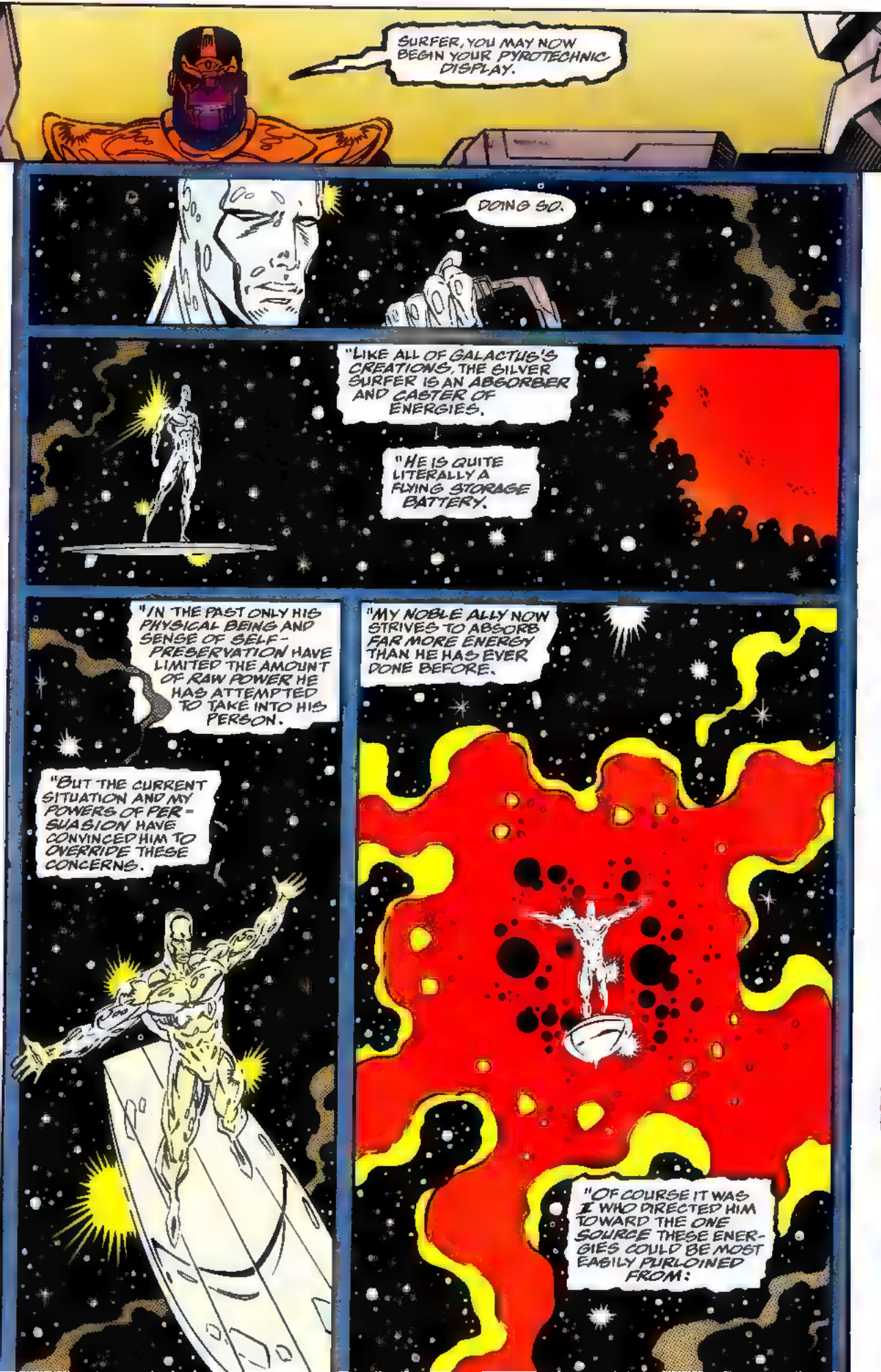
I BELIEVE I WILL PASS ON THAT PARTICULAR OFFER.
I RATHER THOUGHT YOU MIGHT.
THEN PREPARE TO TAKE UP YOUR STATION.
I WILL SIGNAL YOU AS TO WHEN TO BEGIN THE DIVERSION.
AND YOU?
WILL BE WAITING FOR A CERTAIN SHIPMENT TO ARRIVE.
CURSE ME FOR HAVING STORED IT SO FAR FROM THIS SOLAR SYSTEM.
NEW YORK CITY AND THE APARTMENT BUILDING WHERE ONE RICK SHERIDAN RESIDES...
THAT'S WEIRD.
I THOUGHT I WAS OUT OF O.J.
TASTES FUNNY.

AT LAST!
IT WAS INDEED FORTUNATE THAT I HAD THE FORE-SIGHT TO SUPPLY RICK WITH A DOCTORED DOSE OF ORANGE JUICE BEFORE JOINING THE GODDESS'S FOLLOWERS.
OTHERWISE SLEEPWALKER WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REJOIN THE FLOCK!
I RETURN TO YOU, MY GODDESS!
AND JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME, SLEEPWALKER!
THE HOLY CAUSE IS IN NEED OF YOUR BIZARRE TALENTS!
OUR ENEMIES NEAR AND MUST BE DESTROYED!


MYSTIC. HOW GOES YOUR SEARCH FOR THE MISSING INFIDELS?
SLOWLY.
THEN HASTEN THE PROCESS. WE KNOW THAT THEY'RE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE!
FIND THEM!
SISTER MOONDRAGON, YOU HAVE NO IDEA JUST HOW MUCH OUT THERE THERE IS.
PATIENCE.
I'M IN POSITION, THANOS, AWAITING YOUR SIGNAL.
BUT I AM CONCERNED.
WHAT YOU EXPECT OF ME IS SOMETHING I HAVE NEVER BEFORE DARED ATTEMPT.
PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE, SURFER.
I HAVE CAREFULLY CALCULATED THE EFFECTS OF THIS ENTERPRISE AND FOUND THE OVERLOAD FACTOR WELL WITHIN YOUR MEANS.
OVER AND OUT.
PING
EXCELLENT.
D-666 HAS AT LAST ARRIVED.

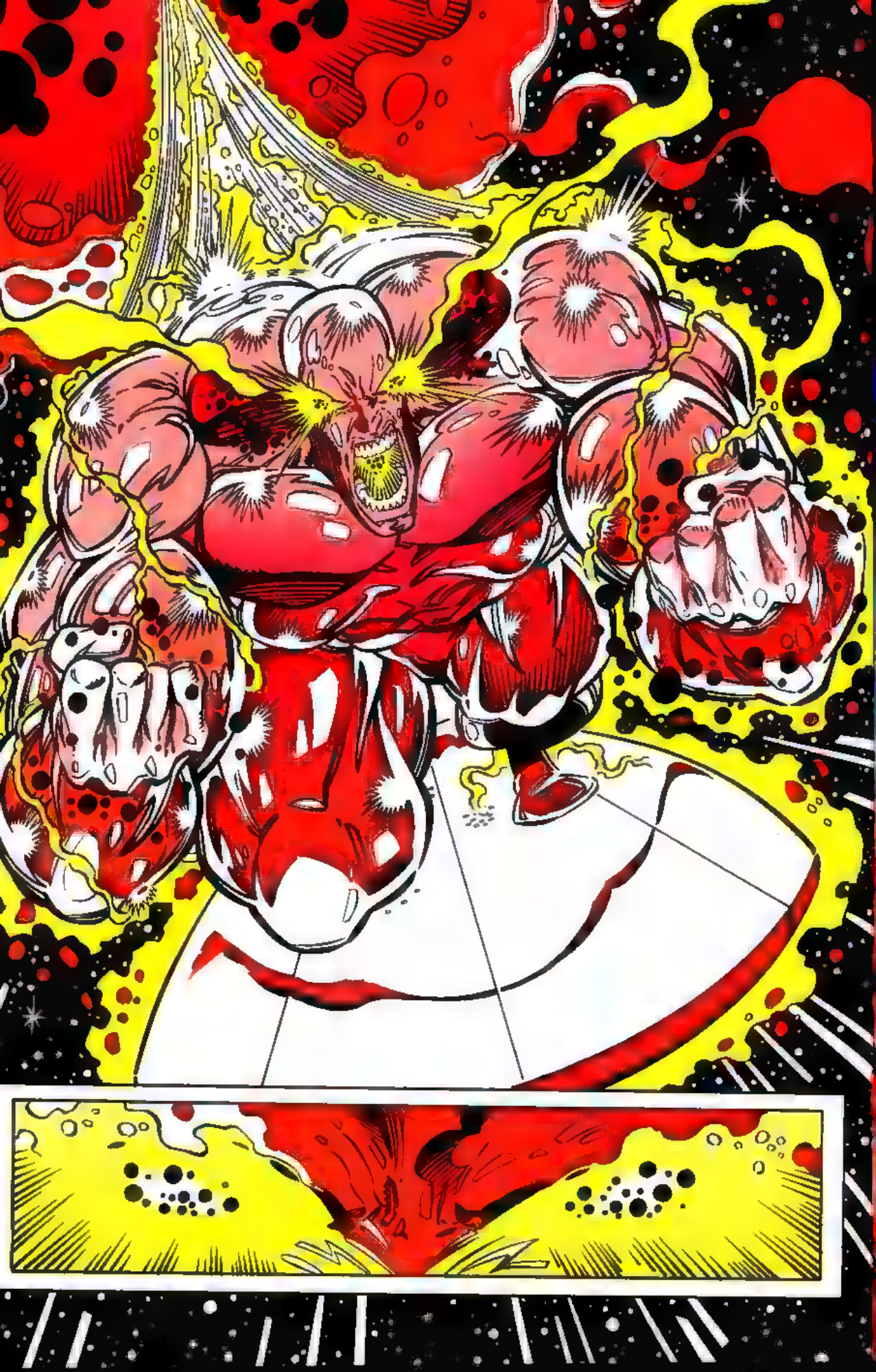

"ONCE I THOUGHT D-666 MY GREATEST CREATION.
"SO YOUNG AND FOOLISH I WAS BACK THEN.
"IN MY FOLLY I THOUGHT ONE COULD CONQUER THE UNIVERSE...
...BY FORCE OF ARMS ALONE.
"BUT I SOON LEARNED THAT UNIVERSAL DOMINANCE REQUIRED A SUBTLER TOUCH.
"ONE CANNOT POUND AN EMPIRE INTO SHAPE.
"IT MUST BE LOVINGLY CRAFTED WITH INSTRUMENTS MORE PRECISE THAN A SLEDGE.
"AND SO D-666 WAS RELEGATED TO A FAR DISTANT DRY DOCK.
"BUT SOMETIMES EVEN GREAT IDEAS [illegible] THEIR MOMENTS.

"I HAVE A FEELING THAT DREADNAUGHT 666 IS JUST WHAT I NEED TO CARRY OUT MY PART OF ADAM WARLOCK'S PLAN."

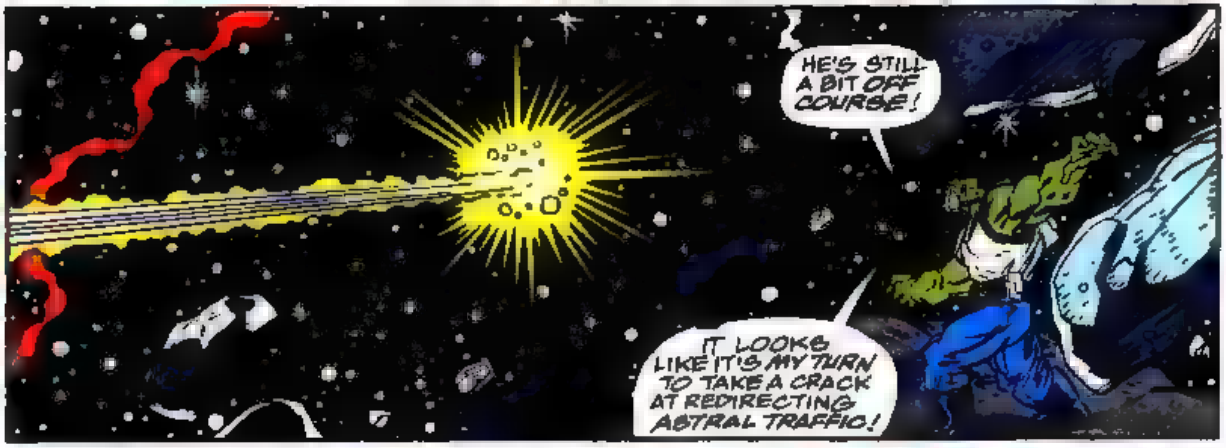

SURFER, YOU MAY NOW BEGIN YOUR PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY.
DOING SO.
"LIKE ALL OF GALACTUS'S CREATIONS, THE SILVER SURFER IS AN ABSORBER AND CASTER OF ENERGIES.
"HE IS QUITE LITERALLY A FLYING STORAGE BATTERY.
"IN THE PAST ONLY HIS PHYSICAL BEING AND SENSE OF SELF-PRESERVATION HAVE LIMITED THE AMOUNT OF RAW POWER HE HAS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE INTO HIS PERSON.
"BUT THE CURRENT SITUATION AND MY POWERS OF PERSUASION HAVE CONVINCED HIM TO OVERRIDE THESE CONCERNS.
"MY NOBLE ALLY NOW STRIVES TO ABSORB FAR MORE ENERGY THAN HE HAS EVER DONE BEFORE.
"OF COURSE IT WAS I WHO DIRECTED HIM TOWARD THE ONE SOURCE THESE ENERGIES COULD BE MOST EASILY PURLOINED FROM:

"THIS SOLAR SYSTEM'S STAR, SOL."
PROF. RICHARDS, THE SCANNERS ARE PICKING UP ENORMOUS SOLAR FLARE ACTIVITY. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE NATURAL.
THIS HAS TO BE THANOS'S DIVERSION!
Q#1 TO BANNER!
DO YOU SEE IT FROM YOUR POSITION?
WHEN THANOS SETS UP A DIVERSION HE GOES ALL OUT, DOESN'T HE?
"PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE REALLY CALCULATED THE EFFECTS THIS MANEUVER MIGHT PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HAVE ON THE SURFER.
"I WAS PRESSED FOR TIME.
"OF COURSE NOW I HOPE THAT DOES NOT PROVE TO BE A DISASTROUS MISCALCULATION.

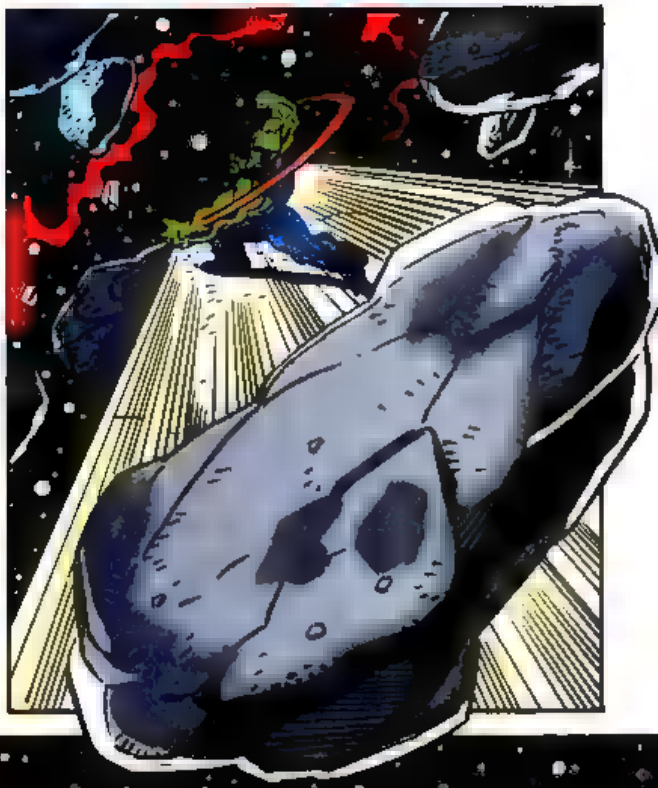
"LET US HOPE THE SURFER DOES NOT OVERLOAD AND EXPLODE BEFORE FACILITATING HIS PART OF THE PLAN."
SISTER MOONDRAGON, THE INSTRUMENTATION IS GOING CRAZY!
THE COMPUTERS SAY SOLAR FLARE ACTIVITY HAS KNOCKED OUT MOST OF OUR LONG-RANGE SCANNING CAPABILITIES!
WE'RE FLYING BLIND!
THIS MUST BE OUR ENEMY'S DOING!
ALL PERSONNEL, PREPARE TO STAVE OFF A MAJOR ASSAULT!
"BY MY RECKONING THE SURFER SHOULD HAVE BY NOW ABSORBED ENOUGH ENERGY FOR THE TASK SET HIM.
"BUT WILL HE STILL RETAIN ENOUGH CEREBRAL FUNCTION TO BREAK OFF THE CONTACT THAT IS SIMULTANEOUSLY EMPOWERING AND LURING HIM TOWARD SELF-DESTRUCTION?"

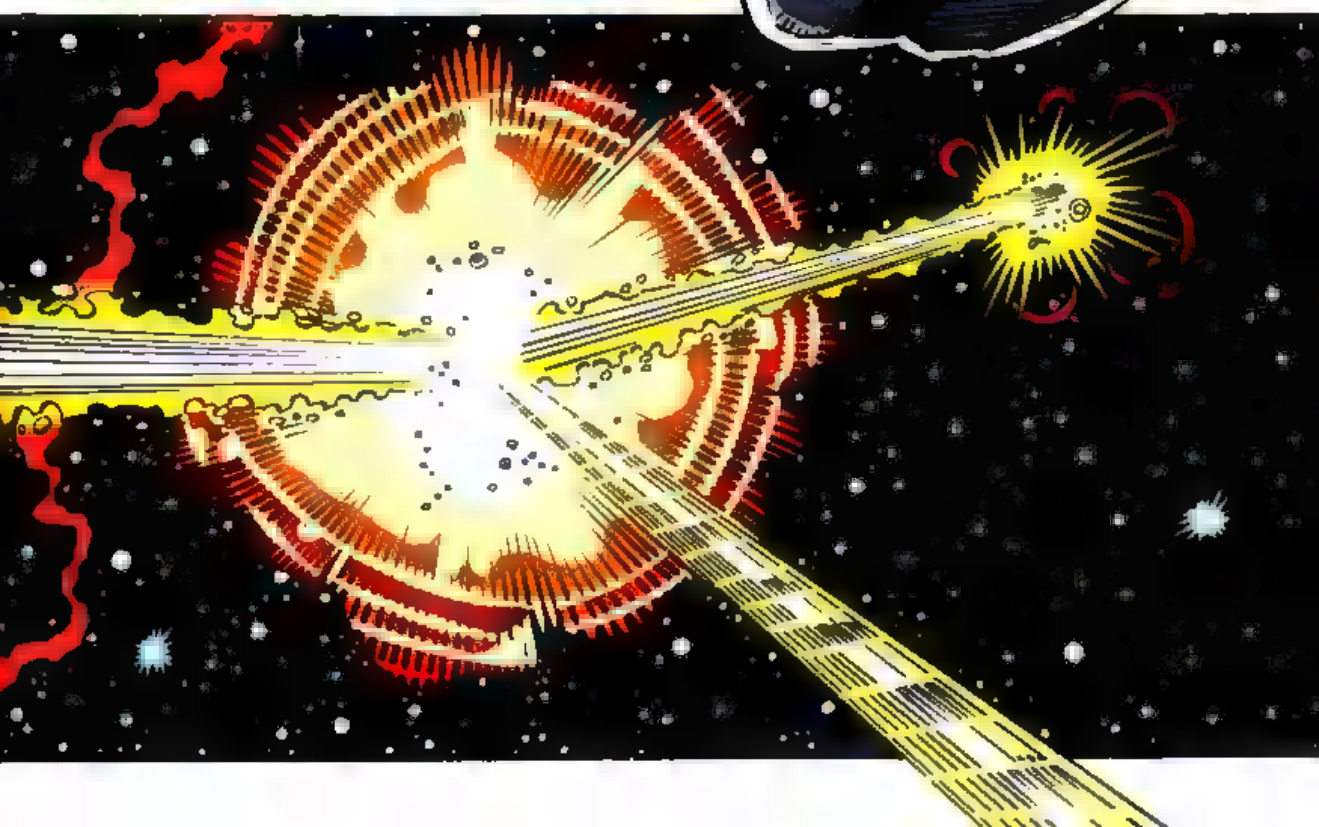


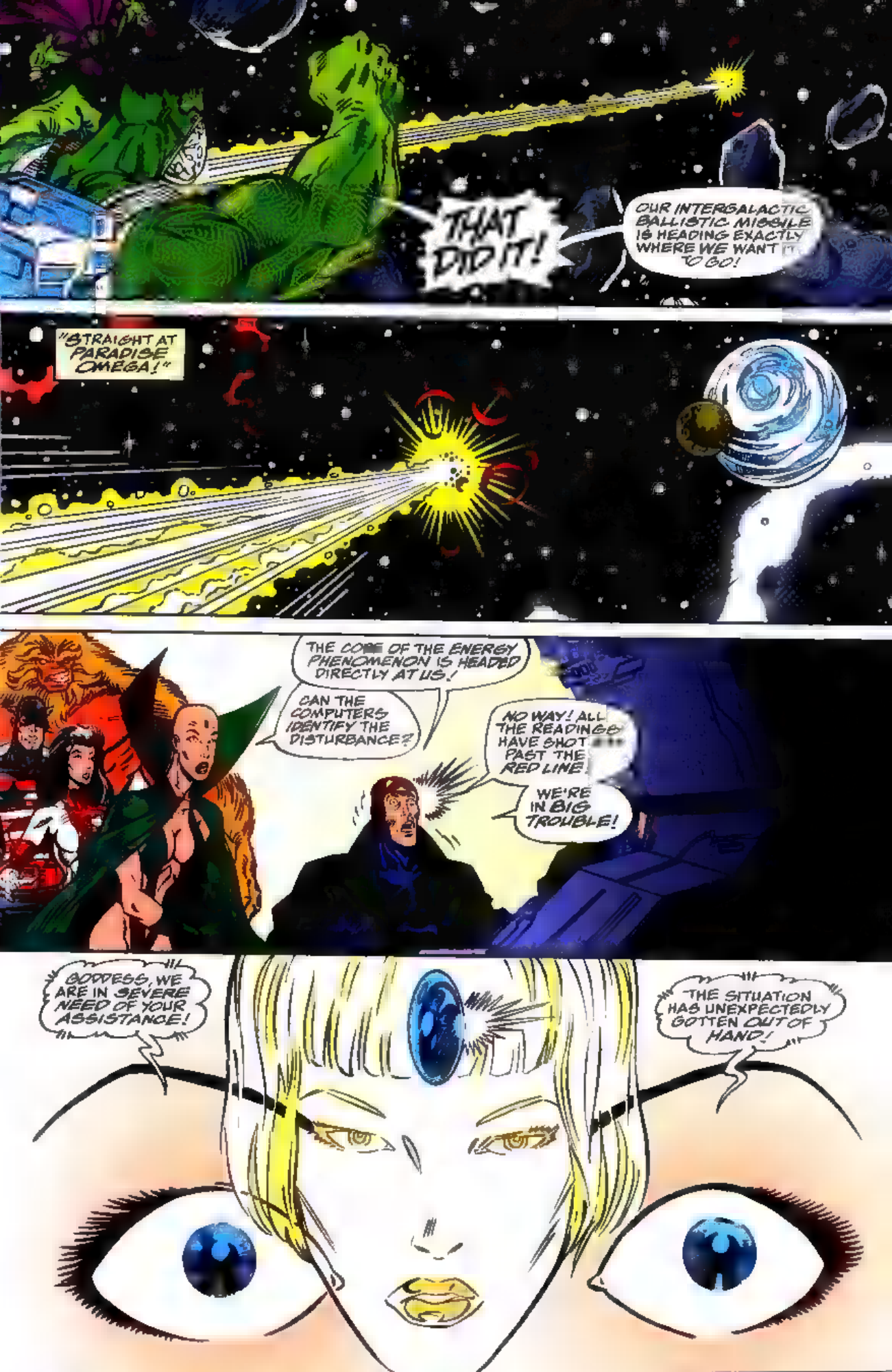
"HERE COMES OUR DIVERSION, DRAX, AS PREDICTED..."
...IT'S HEADING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION!
LET HIM HAVE IT, DRAX!

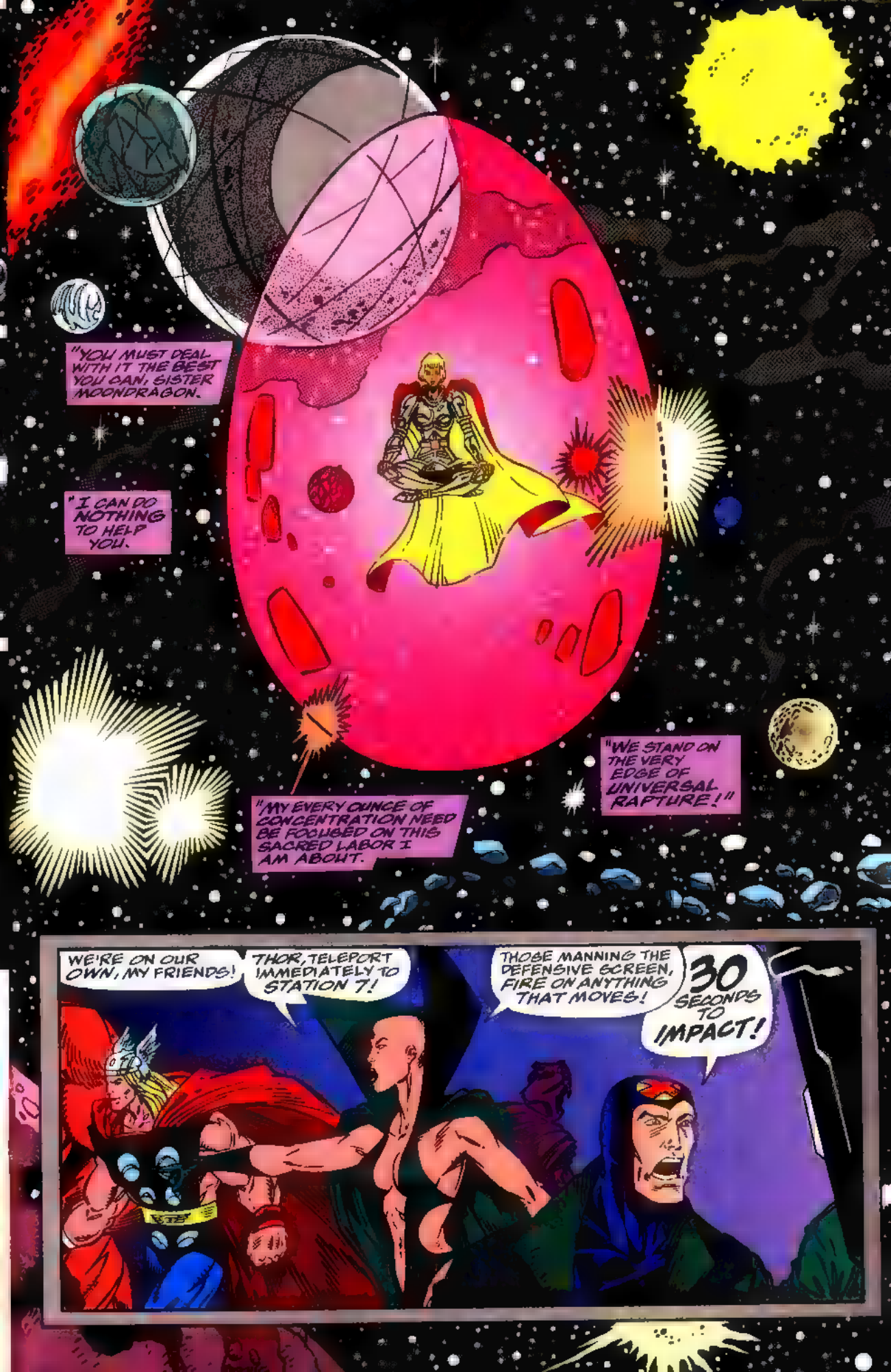

HE'S STILL A BIT OFF COURSE!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S MY TURN TO TAKE A CRACK AT REDIRECTING ASTRAL TRAFFIC!

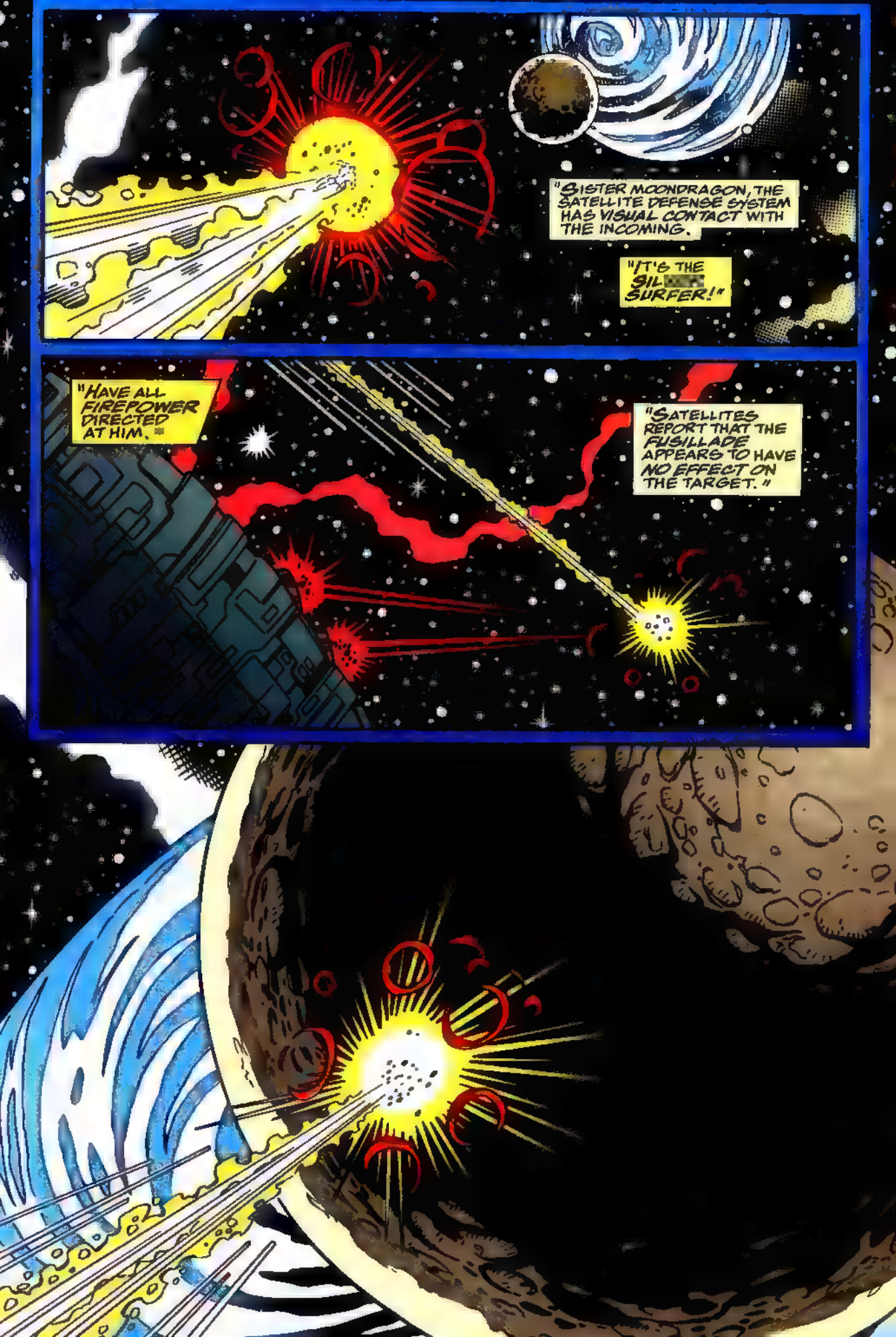
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GO- [redacted] ANYWHERE [redacted] THAT ROCKETING POWERHOUSE.
THIS LITTLE PEBBLE OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK.

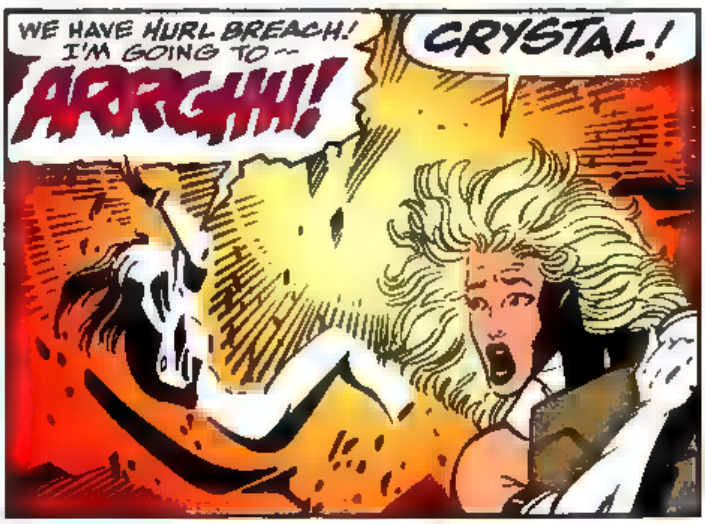


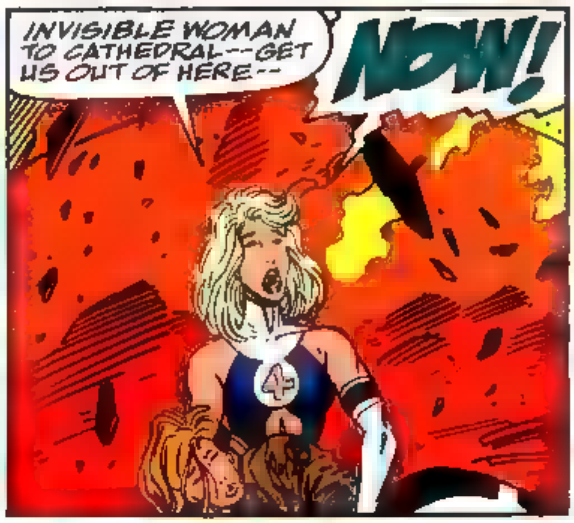


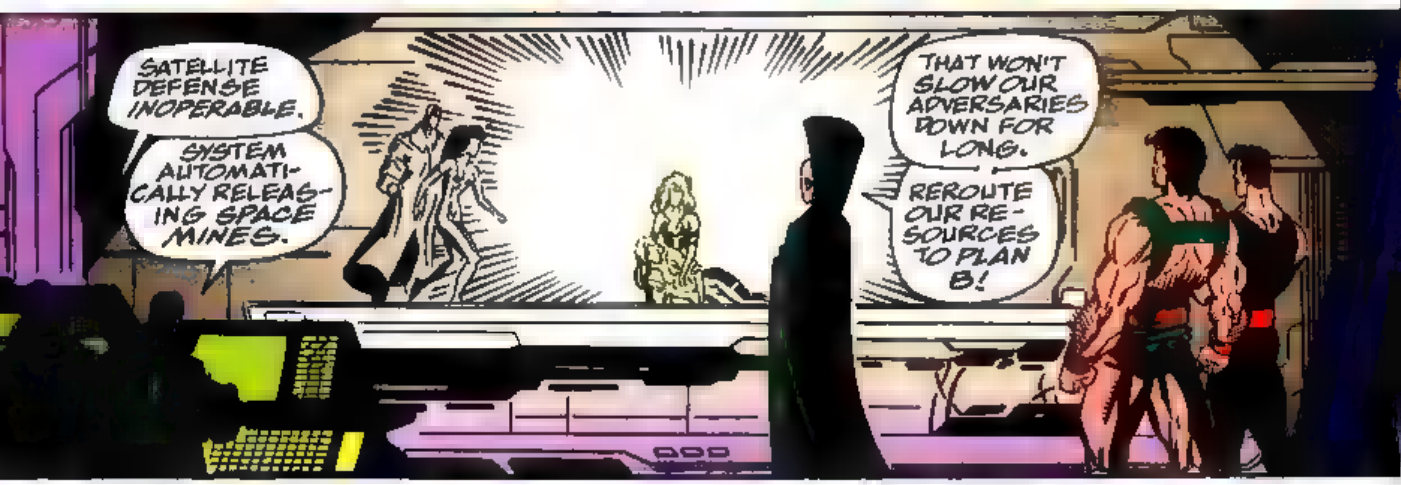

THAT DID IT!
OUR INTERGALACTIC BALLISTIC MISSILE IS HEADING EXACTLY WHERE WE WANT IT TO GO!
"STRAIGHT AT PARADISE OMEGA!"
THE CORE OF THE ENERGY PHENOMENON IS HEADED DIRECTLY AT US.!
CAN THE COMPUTERS IDENTIFY THE DISTURBANCE?
NO WAY! ALL THE READINGS HAVE SHOT PAST THE RED LINE!
WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!
GODDESS, WE ARE IN SEVERE NEED OF YOUR ASSISTANCE!
THE SITUATION HAS UNEXPECTEDLY GOTTEN OUT OF HAND!

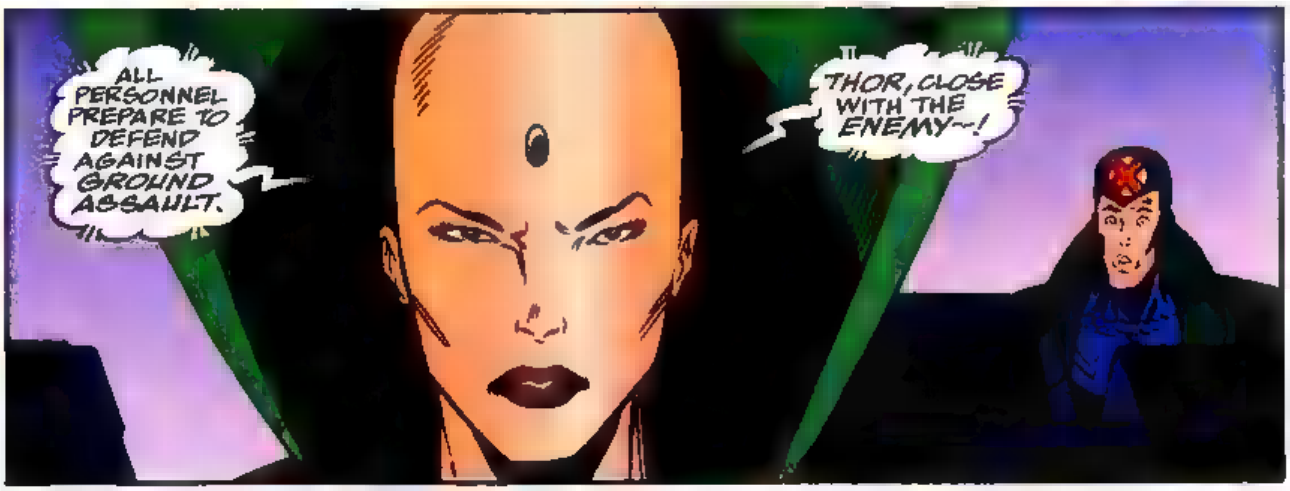

"YOU MUST DEAL WITH IT THE BEST YOU CAN, SISTER MOONDRAGON.
"I CAN DO NOTHING TO HELP YOU.
"MY EVERY OUNCE OF CONCENTRATION NEED BE FOCUSED ON THIS SACRED LABOR I AM ABOUT.
"WE STAND ON THE VERY EDGE OF UNIVERSAL RAPTURE!"
WE'RE ON OUR OWN, MY FRIENDS!
THOR, TELEPORT IMMEDIATELY TO STATION 7!
THOSE MANNING THE DEFENSIVE SCREEN, FIRE ON ANYTHING THAT MOVES!
30 SECONDS TO IMPACT!

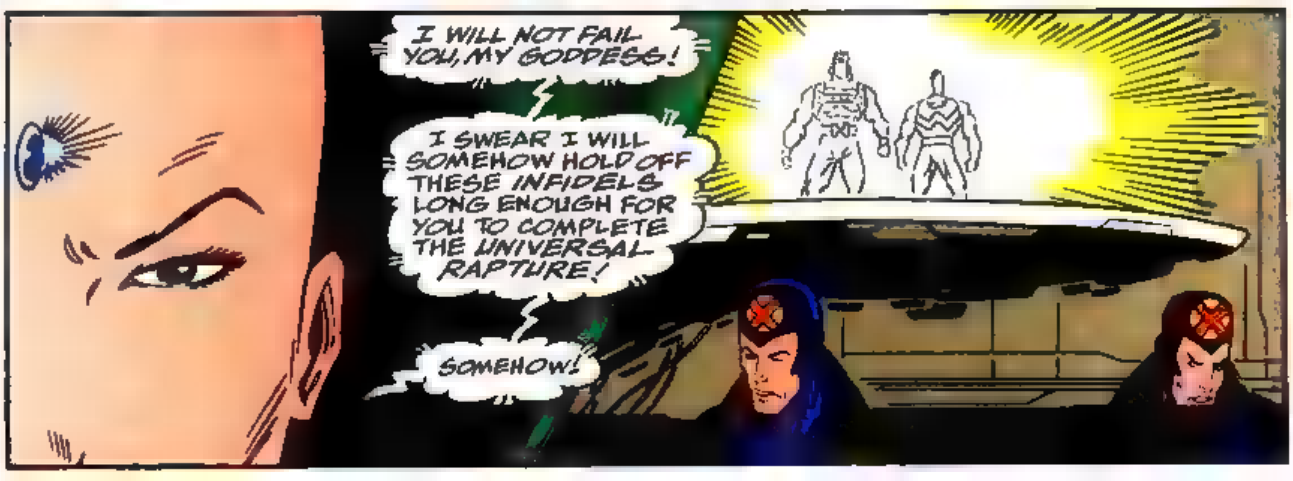

"SISTER MOONDRAGON, THE SATELLITE DEFENSE SYSTEM HAS VISUAL CONTACT WITH THE INCOMING.
"IT'S THE SIL[redacted] SURFER!"
"HAVE ALL FIREPOWER DIRECTED AT HIM.
"SATELLITES REPORT THAT THE FUSILLADE APPEARS TO HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE TARGET."


WE HAVE HURL BREACH! I'M GOING TO--
ARRRGHH!
CRYSTAL!

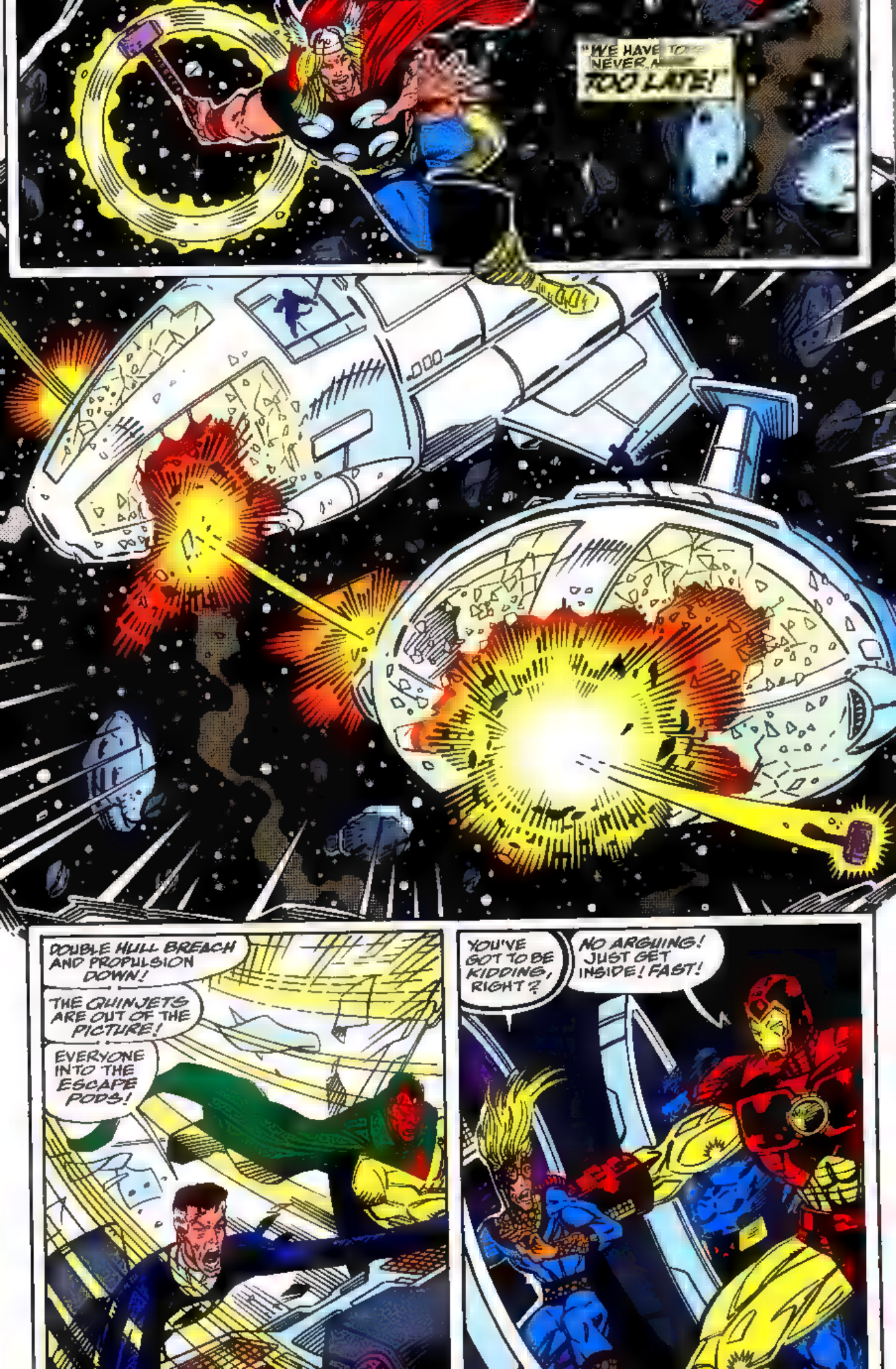

INVISIBLE WOMAN TO CATHEDRAL--GET US OUT OF HERE--
NOW!


SATELLITE DEFENSE INOPERABLE.
SYSTEM AUTOMATICALLY RELEASING SPACE MINES.
THAT WON'T SLOW OUR ADVERSARIES DOWN FOR LONG.
REROUTE OUR RESOURCES TO PLAN B!


ALL PERSONNEL PREPARE TO DEFEND AGAINST GROUND ASSAULT.
THOR, CLOSE WITH THE ENEMY--!


I WILL NOT FAIL YOU, MY GODDESS!
I SWEAR I WILL SOMEHOW HOLD OFF THESE INFIDELS LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO COMPLETE THE UNIVERSAL RAPTURE!
SOMEHOW!

"HOW LONG BEFORE YOU FINISH CLEARING A PATH THROUGH THE MINE FIELD, HAVOK?"
WHAT SHOULD I TELL THE MAN, CYCLOPS?
INFORM HIM THAT THE JOB IS DONE, BROTHER, AND HE CAN TAKE US IN!
IT'S MR. SURFER!
STRANGE PLACE TO BE...
THAT'S THE THUNDER GOD
THOR!
AND HE'S HEADING TOWARD THE QUINJETS!

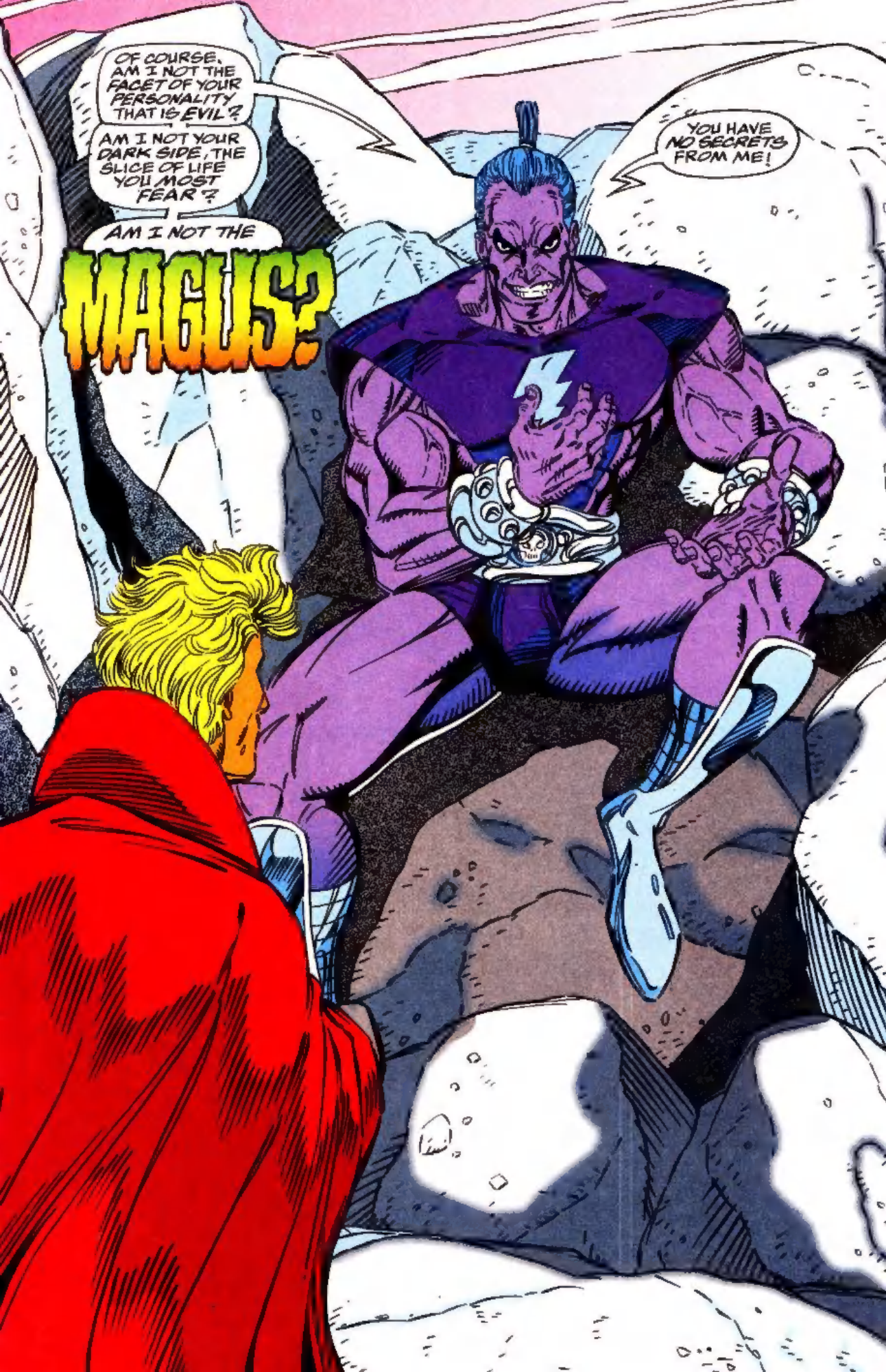

"WE HAVE TO
NEVER A
TOO LATE!"
DOUBLE HULL BREACH AND PROPULSION DOWN!
THE QUINJETS ARE OUT OF THE PICTURE!
EVERYONE INTO THE ESCAPE PODS!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, RIGHT?
NO ARGUING! JUST GET INSIDE! FAST!

TIME TO CURB YOUR HAMMER TOSSING HOSTILE WAYS, BLONDIE!
YEAH, DRAX'S FRIENDS INSIDE THEM LIL' SCOOTERS!
WHAT MADNESS BE THIS?!

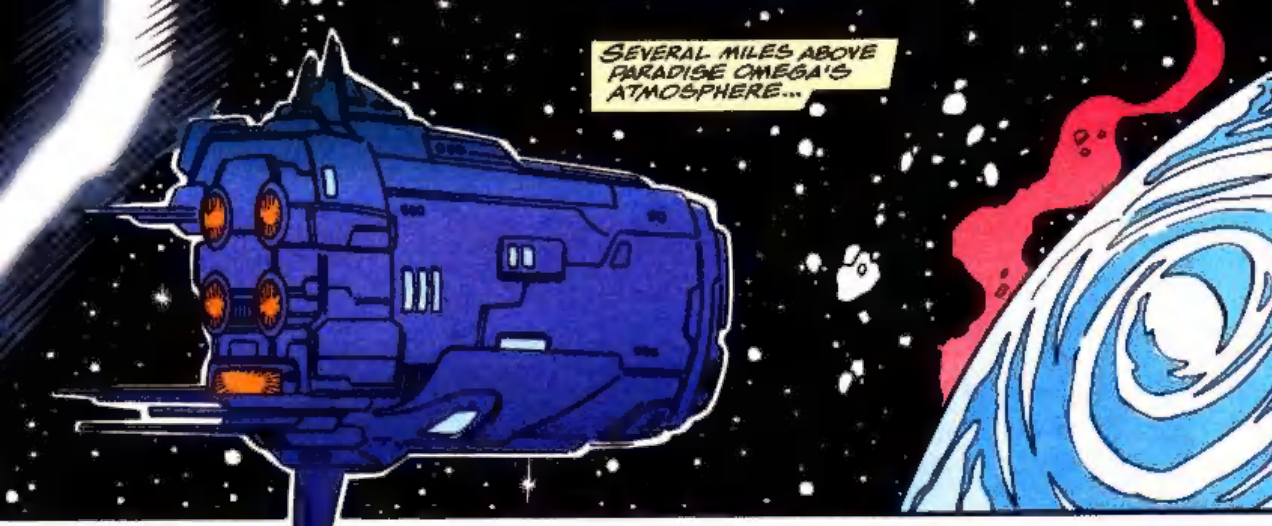
NO INFIDEL CUR SHALL STAY MIGHTY THOR'S HAND!
DON'T BET MONEY ON IT, SLICK!
THE LAST TIME WE TANGLED, I NEARLY CLEANED YOUR CLOCK!
NOW WITH DRAX ON MY SIDE, YOU'RE HISTORY!
HEY!
HE DESTROYED MY MINI-PROPULSION UNIT!
I'M DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE FIGHT!
DRAX!
DRAX!
DRAX!
DRAX!

WE MADE IT, GANG!
NOW EVERYONE BEELINE TO YOUR DESIGNATED LANDING SIGHTS!
EVERY ONE
WHO?
THANOS OF TITAN. I REQUIRE ONE OF YOUR PODS TO MAINTAIN A TWO THOUSAND METER ALTITUDE AT PRESENT.
WHY?
THE DEBRIS FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF PARADISE OMEGA'S MOON HAS MADE LONG-RANGE SCANNING OF THE PLANET NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.
I NEED THIS CAPABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH MY PART OF THE GODDESS'S DOWN-FALL.
RELAYING A SCAN SIGNAL THROUGH AN ESCAPE POD'S COM-SYSTEM WILL RECTIFY THE SITUATION.
SHOULD WE COOPERATE WITH THE TITAN? DO WE DARE TRUST HIM?
HIS UNEXPECTED AID HAS GOTTEN US THIS FAR.
FORGE, MAINTAIN YOUR POD AT THE REQUESTED ALTITUDE.
WILL DO.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LIKE IT!
WE'RE JUST GETTING LEFT OUT OF THE FUN BECAUSE WE AIN'T GOT FANCY SUPER POWERS LIKE THE REST OF THEM DUDES!
MY LINK WITH HIM DIRECTS ME THIS WAY.
BUT STILL I WONDER, IS MY MISSION HERE SHEER FOLLY?
SURELY HE WILL NOT CONSENT TO AID ME IN THE COMING CONFLICT.
HIS HATRED FOR ME IS FAR GREATER THAN HIS LOVE FOR THE UNIVERSE.
YET MY MYSTIC SENSES WARN ME THAT WITHOUT THIS MEETING THE CHANCES OF MY BESTING THE GODDESS ARE SLIM IF NOT NIL.
I SEE YOU HAVE BEEN EXPECTING ME.


OF COURSE. AM I NOT THE FACET OF YOUR PERSONALITY THAT IS EVIL?
AM I NOT YOUR DARK SIDE, THE SLICE OF LIFE YOU MOST FEAR?
AM I NOT THE
MAGUS?
YOU HAVE NO SECRETS FROM ME!

COMPUTERS HAVE FINALLY PINPOINTED WHERE THE ESCAPE PODS ARE LANDING.
YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, SISTER MOONDRAGON?
DISPATCH APPROPRIATE WELCOMING COMMITTEES TO EACH OF THE SIGHTS AND KEEP ME APPRISED OF THE SITUATION.



ALL THE PLAYERS ARE IN PLACE.
THE END GAME BEGINS.
HAVE ALL FACTORS BEEN PROPERLY CONSIDERED?
WILL THE OUTCOME BE AS PREDICTED?

THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION BEGINS TO UNFOLD NEXT WEEK IN...

WARLOCK CHRONICLES #4

THEN THE FULL HORROR OF THE SITUATION IS REVEALED 2 WEEKS LATER IN...

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #21

AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK IN...

THE INFINITY CRUSADE #5

AND--

HOLY WARS

BE SURE TO EXPLORE THE FURTHER RAMIFICATIONS OF THE CRUSADE IN: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #105, SILVER SABLE #17, ALPHA FLIGHT #125 AND DEATHLOK #28...!